

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An automotive vehicle convertible roof comprising:
at least three substantially rigid roof panels each moveable from a raised position to a stowed position; and
a single pair of mounting brackets operable to be fixedly connected to and positioned on opposite sides of the vehicle,
wherein each of said roof panels is pivotally connected to said pair of brackets with each roof panel rearward of a forwardmost roof panel being directly pivotally connected to said brackets and a forwardmost two of said roof panels are directly pivotally connected together.
2. (cancelled)

3. (currently amended)) ~~The convertible roof of claim 2, wherein~~ An automotive vehicle convertible roof comprising:

at least three substantially rigid roof panels each moveable from a raised position to a stowed position; and

a single pair of mounting brackets operable to be fixedly connected to and positioned on opposite sides of the vehicle,

wherein each of said roof panels is pivotally connected to said pair of brackets with each roof panel rearward of a forwardmost roof panel being directly pivotally connected to said brackets and interior surfaces of [[said]] a forwardmost two of said roof panels face one another when in said stowed position.

4. (original) The convertible roof of claim 3, wherein an exterior surface of a forwardmost roof panel faces upwardly when in said stowed position.

5. (currently amended) ~~The convertible roof of claim 1, wherein~~ An automotive vehicle convertible roof comprising:

at least three substantially rigid roof panels each moveable from a raised position to a stowed position; and

a single pair of mounting brackets operable to be fixedly connected to and positioned on opposite sides of the vehicle,

wherein each of said roof panels is pivotally connected to said pair of brackets with each roof panel rearward of a forwardmost roof panel being directly pivotally connected to said brackets and said [[a]] forwardmost roof panel is pivotally connected to said brackets with a single pair of moveable links with each link directly coupled to said forwardmost roof panel and to said brackets.

6. (original) The convertible roof of claim 5, wherein said forwardmost two of said roof panels, said pair of moveable links and said brackets define a pair of at least four-bar linkages.

7. (currently amended) The convertible roof of claim 1, wherein a rearwardmost two of said roof panels and said brackets define a portion of a pair of at least four-bar linkages.

8. (currently amended) ~~The convertible roof of claim 1, further comprising~~ An automotive vehicle convertible roof comprising:

at least three substantially rigid roof panels each moveable from a raised position to a stowed position;

a single pair of mounting brackets operable to be fixedly connected to and positioned on opposite sides of the vehicle;

an actuator operable to move said roof panels between said raised and stowed positions,

wherein each of said roof panels is pivotally connected to said pair of brackets with each roof panel rearward of a forwardmost roof panel being directly pivotally connected to said brackets and ~~wherein~~ said actuator drives a link connecting a rearwardmost two of said roof panels.

9. (currently amended) A convertible roof for a vehicle, the convertible roof comprising:

at least three substantially rigid roof ~~panels~~ panel assemblies each moveable from a raised position to a stowed position;

a rearmost two roof ~~panels~~ panel assemblies each being directly pivotally connected to fixed locations relative to the vehicle; and

a movable link pivotally connected to said rearmost two roof ~~panels~~ panel assemblies defining and forming an at least four-bar linkage with said rearmost two roof ~~panels~~ panel assemblies and said fixed locations,

said moveable link being pivotally connected to portions of said rearmost two roof ~~panels~~ panel assemblies at locations that [[are]] extend between majority portions of said rearmost two roof panels and said pivotal connections to said fixed locations and a leading edge of said rearmost two roof panel assemblies.

10. (currently amended) The convertible roof of claim 9, wherein a forwardmost of said at least three roof ~~panels~~ panel assemblies is directly pivotally connected to one of said rearmost two roof ~~panels~~ panel assemblies.

11. (currently amended) The convertible roof of claim 10, wherein said moveable link is a first moveable link and said forwardmost roof ~~panels~~ panel assembly is pivotally connected to a fixed location on the vehicle with a second moveable link and defines a portion of an at least four-bar linkage with said one of said rearmost two roof ~~panels~~ panel assemblies and said second moveable link.

12. (currently amended) The convertible roof of claim 9, further comprising an actuator directly connected to said moveable link and operable to move said roof ~~panels~~ panel assemblies between said raised and stowed positions.

13. (currently amended) The convertible roof of claim 9, wherein an exterior surface of a forwardmost of said at least three roof ~~panels~~ panel assemblies faces upwardly when in said stowed position.

14. (currently amended) An automotive vehicle convertible roof comprising at least three substantially rigid roof panels each moveable from a raised position to a stowed position, wherein

two of said roof panels are directly pivotally connected together and an interior surface of a ~~third roof panel~~ rearmost one of said roof panels faces a majority of an exterior surface of a ~~second roof panel~~ different one of said roof panels when said roof panels are in said stowed position.

15. (currently amended) The convertible roof of claim 14, wherein a rearmost two of said ~~second and third~~ roof panels are each directly pivotally connected to fixed locations relative to the vehicle.

16. (currently amended) The convertible roof of claim 15, wherein a first ~~roof panel~~ one of said roof panels is pivotally connected to a fixed location relative to the vehicle with a moveable link.

17. (currently amended) The convertible roof of claim 14, wherein an exterior surface of a first ~~roof panel~~ one of said roof panels faces upward when in said stowed position.

18. (cancelled)

19. (currently amended) An automotive vehicle convertible roof comprising:
at least three substantially rigid roof panels each moveable from a raised position to a stowed position;
a moveable link directly pivotally connected to a rearmost two of said roof panels and ~~defining~~ forming a portion of an at least four-bar linkage with said rearmost two roof panels; and
an actuator operable to move said roof panels between said raised and stowed positions, wherein
said actuator is directly pivotally connected to said moveable link.

20. (original) The convertible roof of claim 19, wherein each of said rearmost two roof panels is directly pivotally connected to fixed locations relative to the vehicle.

21. (currently amended) The convertible roof of claim 20, wherein said moveable link is a first moveable link and a forwardmost of said at least three roof panels is pivotally connected to a fixed location relative to the vehicle with a second moveable link.

22. (currently amended) The convertible roof of claim 19, wherein a forwardmost of said at least three roof panels is directly pivotally connected to one of said rearmost two roof panels.

23. (currently amended) The convertible roof of claim 22, wherein said forwardmost roof panel is coupled to and forms a portion of a four-bar linkage with said one of said rearmost roof panels ~~with a four-bar linkage~~.

24. (original) The convertible roof of claim 19, wherein said at least four-bar linkage is a four-bar linkage.

25. (currently amended) The convertible roof of claim 19, wherein an exterior surface of a forwardmost of said at least three roof panels faces upward when in said stowed position.

26. (currently amended) The convertible roof of claim 19, wherein interior surfaces of a forwardmost two of said at least three roof panels face one another when in said stowed position.